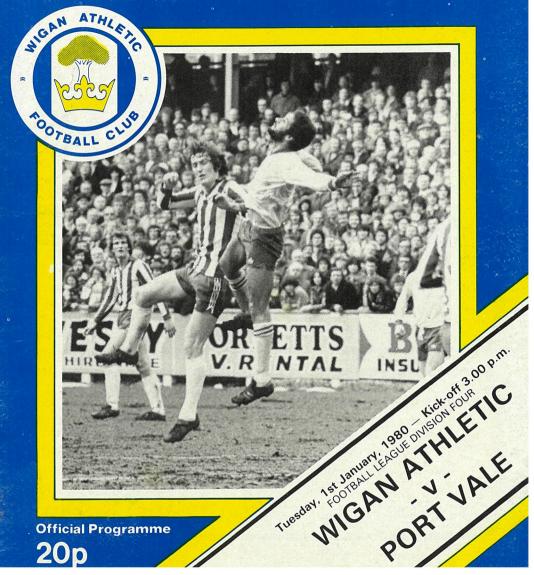
# WIGHT ATHLETIC



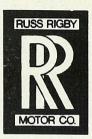
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## Club Directory

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and Dr. J. Coffev.

The Wigan Athletic Football Club wishes to thank all those who have donated match balls. Any individual or organisation wishing to join the scheme is asked to contact the Commercial Manager, Springfield Park, Wigan. (Telephone: Wigan 43067)

Front page pic: Noel Ward rises high to challenge the Port Vale defence in last year's game. (Photo by courtesy of The Wigan Observer).

# Personally Speaking

by Ian McNeill



Good afternoon all. A WARM welcome to Port Vale players and officials. At time of going to press Port Vale are still manager-less. This season has been particularly trying for them, as they struggle to find some consistency. However, the basics of a first class club are

there and sooner or later they will climb again.

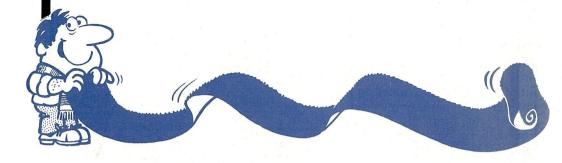
Port Vale has provided quite a few entertaining times during my career as Wigan Manager. In fact last season's epic game when we came back from three down to win 5-3 sticks out in my mind. But during my first spell as manager of Latics I remember drawing Port Vale in the F.A. Cup. We had a tremendous battle here and drew 1-1 in front of 14,000 fans. We were not considered favourites for the replay but after another highly competitive game we drew 2-2 in front of 9,000 fans at Vale Park. The second replay was played at Old Trafford, with a crowd of 17,000 attending. It was only in the last minute of extra time, after 329 minutes of exciting cup football that Port Vale grabbed the clinching goal.

I trust this afternoon's match is every bit as entertaining.

Enjoy today's match.

Jan Me Meill.

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#### MICRON ELECTRICAL CO.

132-134 Gidlow Lane, Wigan. Telephone: 42918/42887 IT IS a pleasure to have as visitors today the directors, staff, players and supporters of the Port Vale Football Club. By a strange coincidence, our first fixture in 1979 was also against the "Valiants", but at Vale Park, Burslem, and not at Springfield Park. It is to be hoped, however, that today's fixture is not the prelude to severe winter conditions, as was last year's January fixture.

Many of us can still remember the enic struggle against Port Vale in Ian McNeill's first period of team management at Wigan, when after three testing games Port Vale edged us out of the F.A. Cup almost on the final whistle. Last year's two league games against our Staffordshire rivals also proved to be nail-biting, tense affairs with the "Valiants" gaining a narrow 2-1 victory at Burslem on an ice-rink of a pitch, while our boys almost demoralised Dennis Butler's side, in the return game at Wigan on Good Friday. with a five goal burst between the 66th and 85th minutes, after trailing 0-3 with less than half an hour to play!! If we were to get a repeat of that dramatic encounter, many of our supporters would tempt providence by topping-up on their New Year's Eve celebrations.

Port Vale have made a rather disappointing start to the 1979-80 season, and, at the time of writing these notes, the club is in an uncharacteristically low league position. However, the appointment of a new manager is imminent, and, such is the club's pedigree that, given time to settle in, whoever the new man turns out to be, we are sure that he will very rapidly get to grips with the situation and move his side into a much more comfortable and respectable league placing. Certainly

the new manager will get every chance to do well because not only are the Port Vale directors most discerning and anxious to promote positive entertainment, but also, off the field of play, the commercial side of the club's activities is one of the best, if not the best, in the Fourth Division. Indeed, it is not without significance, that we modelled our first lottery ticket on that being promoted by the Port Vale Club twelve months ago. At that time Mr. Roy Cope was the source of much help and encouragement to us.

Thumbing back through Port Vale's past achievements, we discover that well-known personalities Jackie Mudie, Sir Stanley Matthews, Gordon Lee and Rov Sproson have all occupied the manager's chair at Vale Park Furthermore, Port Vale are one of only four clubs to reach the F.A. Cup Semi-Final while in the Third Division (1953-1954). The club's best season in the Football League was 1930-1931, when their side finished fifth in the Second Division, Strangely enough, for all their cup fighting traditions. Port Vale have vet to progress beyond the Second Round of the Football League Cup.

Welcome then to our colleagues and friends from the old town of Burslem. We trust you will enjoy your visit to Wigan on the first day of the New Year, and witness an exciting and sporting game of football, before returning safely to your homes tonight to continue the seasonal celebrations. All best wishes for a more successful and rewarding 1980.

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Bob Hats Named bob hats	£1.00 £1.10	Pens Combs	£0.20	
Printed Scarves Knitted Scarves Silk Scarves	£1.75 £2.50 £0.75	Beakers Football Money Boxes	£0.70 £1.50	
Silk Scarves (last seasons)	£0.30	Wigan Athletic Rock Booklet "The Supporter"	£0.12 £0.50	
Pennants Fixture Key Rings Button Badges	£0.50 £0.20 £0.30	Wristlets Named Wristlets	£0.50 £0.70	
Lapel Badges Rosettes	£0.30 £0.40	Sweaters Size 26-32 Sweaters Size 34-44	£7.00 £8.00	
Round Car Stickers Swingers	£0.30 £0.40	Grip Bags Shoulder Bags	£4.00 £3.00	
Fun Stickers	£0.10	Sew-on	£0.40	

#### Match Ball Donation

We are pleased to acknowledge the donation of today's match ball by Dickinson Lottery Systems, Woodgate, Loughborough, Leicestershire, telephone 0509 218228/218278, specialists in all forms of fund raising schemes. We thank the firm which has contributed so much to the success of our own lottery for the interest it has shown in our club on this, and past, occasions.

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# Lancashire Leggue Scene

by Fred Eyre

CHRISTMAS and New Year is not only the time for presents and holly, in football circles it represents a very important period in the soccer season. It is the halfway mark, a time to take stock of what's past and of what the second half of the season may hold, time for a half term report. A very pleasing first half term which in spite of a recent heavy defeat at Oldham still left the Reserve Team near the top of the table. Last year's head boy Tony Quinn continued to excel and pushed himself into the higher grades, and has settled in very well and is now an accepted member of the first team squad.

Fortune did not shine too brightly on his pal Pop Freeman, an equally important member of last year's team, who sustained a serious injury before the season started and is only now getting back to anything like his old form. Hopefully he will have more luck in 1980

The successes of last year's Reserve Team Glen Buckley, Alan Greenhalgh, Steve Yates, Brian Cunliffe and Alan Harrison have helped to push us to the forefront again this season and with youngsters like Keith Maver, George McAlister, Mike Quinn, David Glenn and Mark Wignall pushing for regular places in the team, the prospects for the second half of the season look bright.

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I.A.T.A

# Player Profile





#### **DEREK BROWNBILL (Forward)**

DEREK BROWNBILL was born in Speke, Liverpool, and received his early education at St. Ambrose School, and strangely enough played in the same young team as Peter Houghton and Tommy Gore. Derek continued his education at St. Xavier's College, where he not only played but also captained school sides for a five-year period. He was also a more than useful player at tennis and cricket.

At fifteen years of age, Derek signed amateur forms for Liverpool, where he played in the junior sides. At the age of eighteen, he signed on full professional terms, and played in the F.A. Youth Cup Final against Aston Villa, when for once Liverpool finished as runners-up, but Derek had the consolation of scoring a goal at Anfield in the second leg of the final.

Six months later, Derek was to make his Football League debut for the "Reds" at Birmingham City in a 1-1 draw. Later in the same year he was substitute for several EUFA Cup games. Unfortunately, Derek found it difficult to tie down a first team place at Anfield, and.

at the age of twenty-one, he moved to Port Vale, where he was to play over one hundred games. The highlight of Derek's stay at Vale Park occured when the "Valiants" reached the Fifth Round of the F.A. Cup only to lose out again to bogey team, Aston Villa.

After a period of disenchantment and disappointment, Derek joined Cleveland Cobras for a summer of American Football before joining Wigan Athletic for their venture into League Football.

Very popular with the fans, Derek is a forceful, hard-working, enthusiastic player who always makes things happen when he steps out onto the park. Plagued recently by a series of niggling injuries, Derek Brownbill is sure to play a major part in Wigan's New Year match programme.

Married and anxiously looking forward to a new arrival in the family in the near future, this quiet unassuming man has our best wishes for a very happy 1980.

#### F.A. CHALLENGE CUP THIRD ROUND DRAW

West Brom v West Ham
Notts County v Wolves
Bristol C. v Derby Co.
Chelsea v Northwich V. or Wigan Ath.
Mansfield v Brighton
Preston v Ipswich
Everton v Aldershot
Birmingham v Southampton
Newcastle v Chester
Altrincham v Orient
Wimbledon or Portsmouth v
Middlesborough

Chesham or Merthyr T. v Cambridge Utd Walsall or Halifax v Manchester City Tottenham v Manchester Utd. Leeds Utd. v Nottingham F. Wrexham v Charlton Ath. Burnley v Stoke City QPR v Watford Millwall v Shrewsbury Cardiff v Arsenal Yeovil v Norwich Bristol R. v Aston Villa

Carlisle v Bradford C.
Luton T. v Torquay Utd. or Swindon
Oldham v Coventry
Reading v Colchester
Liverpool v Grimsby
Sunderland v Bolton
Swansea v Crystal Palace
Rochdale v Bury
Leicester v Harlow

Ties to be played on Saturday, 5th January, 1980.

Blackburn v Fulham



41 Mesnes Street Wigan Telephone 46270/42810



# FIGHTING TH THE NE



Photographs by courtesy of The Wigan Observer.

# Springfield Spotlight

# EIR WAY INTO W YEAR



LEFT: FRANK CORRIGAN

TOP RIGHT: NEIL DAVIDS

BOTTOM RIGHT: JOE HINNIGAN





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# Down Memory ane by Harold Ashurst

"LET NO MAN challenge me, when I say that the salute which rang from this 46,000 crowd at the end of the game was exclusively for wonderful.

wonderful Wigan.

That was just one of the many accolades heaped on Latics by the National Press after their epic F.A. Cup Third Round tie with Manchester City at Maine Road on 2nd January, 1971. The crowd, made up of probably 20,000 Wigan fans, was the second biggest of the round and proved to be Manchester City's biggest for that season

It was a real gala day for everyone connected with Wigan Athletic. The Wigan side held out the might of the First Division outfit until the seventy-second minute when goalkeeper Dennis Reeves' boot split while he was taking a goal-kick. The ball went straight to Neil Young who switched it inside to Colin Bell, and, before the Wigan defence could move, the ball was in the back of the net. It was tragedy for Wigan, and afterwards Dennis Reeves blamed himself for the defeat but he needn't have bothered. He, like every other Wigan player, had played the game

of his life to give high-flying City one heck of a scare.

Indeed, had it not been for City goalkeeper Joe Corrigan, who denied Latics' centre forward Geoff Davies with two world class saves late in the match. then who knows what might have happened.

But, with the Match of the Day cameras there to take it all in, Wigan revelled in the

praise they received.

The City players trooped off at the end more than a little relieved at not being knocked out of the cup by a non-league side and the magnificent standing ovation from every person on the ground showed just what they thought of Latics' efforts. Many people thought that, at the end of the season, Wigan would walk into the League, but that's another story.

City: Corrigan, Book, Mann, Doyle, Booth, Oakes. Summerbee. Bell, Lee, Young,

Jeffries, Sub: Carrodus,

Wigan: Reeves, Turner, Sutherland, Milne, Coutts, Gillibrand, Temple, Todd, Davies, Fleming, Oates, Sub. Ledgard.

Ref: Pat Partridge. Attendance: 46.212.

#### **LATICS AWAY**

AT THE TIME of printing this programme the pattern of forthcoming fixtures is somewhat uncertain. Supporters are advised to scrutinise the local papers carefully to keep up to date with the rapidly changing fixture situation. Consequently, our normal guide as to routings to away grounds is omitted this issue.

# Facts and Figures

Home fixtures in capitals. Wigan scores first.

Player scoring in bold. † Player substituted.

<sup>2</sup> Figure indicates no. of goals scored by player. \* In result column indicates opponents own goal.

DATE	FIXTURE	FA	ATT.	. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Stockport FLC1	1-2	6.004	R Warc	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N. Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton <sup>1</sup>	Brownbill	Purdie	Urquhart
	STOCKPORT FLC1	0.0	7.591	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Brownbill	Purdie	Moore
	Darlington	2 - 2	2.063	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan¹	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie <sup>1</sup>	Davids
	HUDDERSFIELD	1 - 2	6.927	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore¹	Purdie	Brownbil
	Stockport County	2 - 1	3,837	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore <sup>1</sup>	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton1	Moore	Purdie	N Ward
Sep 1	PORTSMOUTH	1 - 2	8.198	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore¹	Purdie	Urquhart
	Bournemouth	2 - 1	4.390	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	Hart	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Brownbill
	YORK CITY	2 - 5	5,990	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan¹	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Purdie	Urquhart
		2 - 1	4.877	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton <sup>2</sup>	Purdie
	HARTLEPOOL	1 - 2	3.891	Shyne	Gore	Hinnigan	Purdie	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright1	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Urguhart
	Hereford United	4 - 1	8.009				Urguhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore'	Houghton1	Cromptor
	BRADFORD CITY			Shyne	Gore¹	Hinnigan'	Urquhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Crompton
Oct 6	TORQUAY UNITED	0 3	6.541	Shyne	Gore	Hinnigan'	Urquhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Methven
Oct 9	Huddersfield Town	0 4	7.871	Brown	Gore	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Urguhart
	Doncaster Rovers	-1 3	4.169	Brown	MacIvor¹	Hinnigan		Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton <sup>2</sup>	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn
	LINCOLN CITY	2 - 1	5.454	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigar	Gore		Davids		Wright	Houghton	A. Quinn¹	Urguhart	Buckley
	ROCHDALE	1 - 1	5.036	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven		Corrigan		Buckley	A. Quinn'	Urguhart	Smart
Oct 27	Newport County	2 - 3	4.910	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven'	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A. Quinn¹	Urguhart	Buckley
Nov 3	DARLINGTON	4. 1	5.001	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan <sup>2</sup>	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan		, ,	A. Quinn'	Urguhart	Brownbil
Nov 6	Rochdale	2 - 0	2.936	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton'		Urquhart'	Moore
Nov 17	SCUNTHORPE	4 - 1	4,618	Brown	Fretwell ,	Hinnigan'	Gore¹	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A. Quinn¹	Urguhart	Moore
Nov 24	Blackpool F.A.C.1	1 1	11.277	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven'	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	_	
Nov 28	BLACKPOOL FAC1	R 2 0	14.589	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore'	Methven	Davids	Corrigan'	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	Moore
Dec 1	NORTHAMPTON	0 0	6.158	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright '	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	Moore
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# Fourth Division Focus by Chris Gill



WITH THE season approaching the half way mark it is now becoming clear that competition in the Fourth Division for promotion places will probably be more fierce than anywhere else.

Portsmouth look to be racing "certs." Manager Frank Burrows is said to have been told to "get promotion at all costs". As the average football fan will be aware he has splashed cash about on players as

if it were going out of fashion.

They've picked up lan Purdie from Latics, Kenny Todd from Port Vale, Phil Ashworth on a free, Steve Perrin from Plymouth Argyle and David Gregory from Bury — to name just a few. By my reckoning Pompey must now have cover in every department, but what a price to pay!!

Elsewhere, Huddersfield Town seem to have lost their way a little, while Bradford City are still looking to recover their best form and Walsall look a bit lightweight.

The shock sides this year are undoubtedly Doncaster Rovers who applied for re-election last year, and Newport County who themselves are no strangers to the perils of re-election.

The emergence of new contenders for promotion is excellent for the game. What

isn't is the disappearance of the division's top players.

George Riley joined Cambridge United recently from Northampton Town for £180,000 plus; Aldershot lost John Dungworth to Shrewsbury and it now seems likely that the old master himself, Ted MacDougall, is set for a new lease of life with Norwich City.

In the New Year it will be interesting to see how long players like Houghton and Hinnigan (Wigan Athletic), Penn and Paul (Walsall) Newton and Houchen (Hartlepool United), Cooper (Torquay United) and Feeley (Hereford United) can evade the clutches of the top clubs.

Stockport County's new manager Jimmy McGuigan will soon be seeking out a replacement for Ken Fogarty, who is shortly set to leave for America. Lincoln City have persuaded First Division Stoke City to loan them goalkeeper Eric McManus as they bid to revive their recently flagging fortunes.

York City are another side intent on strengthening their squad. The player Charlie Wright has his eye on at the moment is Leeds United's reserve player

Billie McGhie.

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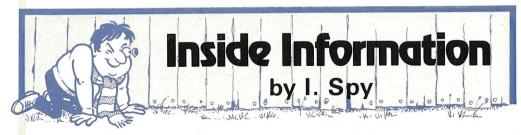
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ALTHOUGH the staff of the football club nave not quite reached the stage of picking up their alarm clocks and saying "Good morning, Wigan Athletic," they are getting very near to responding to bells with the trained reaction of a Pavlovian dog. One would imagine that any carol singer brave enough to render "Joyful Christmas Bells" at the homes of any of our staff is in grave danger of an Ebeneezer Scrooge type reply of "Humbug".

Events in the past seven days must have strained S.T.D., telephone kiosk, and all Buzby's resources to the limits, dealing with the almost incessant stream of enquiries about the F.A. Cup tie with Northwich Victoria. Even at home our staff have done a magnificent P.R. job soothing the cup-fevered breasts of our fanatical supporters.

To help our followers who may experience the frustration of being unable to contact our match information centre, on telephone Nos. Wigan 44433 and Wigan 43067, on future occasions, we

are pleased to give additional guidance. Whenever a game is postponed, our first task is to contact the local press, regional T.V. and radio Sports Desks, and the firms responsible for the transportation of our fans. Any local friendly business person who is likely to receive enquiries is also contacted.

We are only too delighted to perform this very necessary service for our fans, but such is the volume of enquiries we would appreciate it if calls were kept short and to the point. We do not wish to be impolite but any prolonged conversations about the F.A., the Football League, our opponents and disasters associated with previous games which have involved fruitless journeys and inconveniences only add to our pressure and cause even greater frustration for the supporter who is trying to contact us on telephone lines which seem to be constantly engaged.

All best wishes for the New Year.

HELLO! everyone, and welcome to our first game in 1980. A Happy New Year to all supporters and members and we sincerely hope that you have all had a great holiday.

The celebrations at the club were first class and I am sure that all our members enjoyed their nights out at the "Latics".

We start the New Year off tonight with the always welcome and very popular Christopher Wren, and, at the weekend, yet another two top-liners:-

#### Saturday, 5th Jan.- Richard Domani Sunday, 6th Jan - Duggie Wakefield

Up to the time of writing our Sunday night members' draw had not been won, and is steadily increasing.

Why not come along on Sunday, it

could be your lucky night!!

Another reminder is that we have full bingo sessions every Tuesday and Friday night at 8.30 p.m., with good jackpots to be won.



Don't forget next Monday, 7th January, when our quiz team meet Rochdale at our club in the 'second leg' of the Federation Quiz.

Hoping to see you soon.
Sincerely,
Peter Woods.



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### **HALIFAX**

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# A last word from the chairman . . .

ON BEHALF of Wigan Athletic Football Club, I am delighted to welcome the Chairman, Directors, Staff and Supporters of the Port Vale Football Club to Springfield Park for the first game of 1980. Last years' game at Wigan between the two clubs produced one of the most exciting games and one of the biggest turn-abouts in match fortunes ever witnessed at Springfield Park. After trailing O-3 after 65 minutes, our side ran riot in the last 25 minutes scoring five times. If today's encounter only produces half the drama of the game played last Good Friday, the New Year will have started momentously.

These notes are being prepared prior to the saga of postponed and re-arranged games in connection with our Cup-tie against Northwich Victoria. Naturally enough, we are hoping by this time to have progressed to the Third



Round of the premier national competition. A visit to Stamford Bridge, the home of the famous Chelsea Football Club by Wigan Athletic would be yet another milestone in the history of the club. If it is not tempting fate too much, I can already hear the hoarse, proud voices of Wigan fans baying out their support for their favourites. Football is such a funny game that a replay at Wigan would not be beyond the capabilities of our players — remember Altrincham's magnificent achievement in drawing at Tottenham Hotspur in last year's competition. How proud we would be if we were privileged to entertain ''The Pensioners'' here in Wigan. If we are fortunate enough to win against Northwich, I trust that our supporters making the trip to London will be mindful of our good name and fine reputation when visiting other cities. Please support your team in the best possible way, setting a fine sporting example to the rest of the football world.

In closing, may I wish all the friends of the club a very happy, prosperous and memorable New Year.

Sincerely, A. O. Horrocks, Chairman

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# Teams

1

2

3

4

5

7

9

Wigan Athletic **Royal Blue** & White Stripes

**Port** Vale Tangerine & Black

John Brown

**Trevor Dance** 

Dave Fretwell

Gerry Keenan

Joe Hinnigan

**Neil Griffiths** 

**Tommy Gore** 

Kenny Beech

Colin Methyen

Phil Sproson

**Neil Davids** 

6 Paul Bowles

Frank Corrigan

Steven Jones

**Bernie Wright** 

**Jeff Wright** Peter Houghton 8 Peter Farrell

Tony Quinn

10 Neville Chamberlain

George Urquhart 11 Russel Bromage

Micky Moore 12

## Officials

Referee: Mr. G. Courtney (Co. Durham)

Started refereeing in 1962 and has progressed through Auckland District League, Wearside League, Northern League and the Football League line to the full list. In 1977 refereed, F.A. Trophy Final, in 1978 was referee/linesman in U.E.F.A. International, Youth Tournament and in 1979 refereed Republic of Ireland v West Germany and also Senior Linesman for a European Nations Cup match and a pre-Olympic qualifying match. Spent four months refereeing on the North American Soccer League circuit. A member of the F.I.F.A. panel of referees.

> Linesmen: Red Flag Mr. R.A. Funnell (Chester) Yellow Flag Mr. A. Jones (Wirral)

Here next

Saturday, 19th January, 1980. Kick-off 3.00 p.m. WIGAN ATHLETIC v A.F.C. BOURNEMOUTH **Football League Division Four**